

## Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE  
EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS  
H - MR. JENKINS  
L/C - MR. KWIATEK

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O R 200041Z SEP 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207406

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US  
SUBJECT: US - CZECHOSLOVAK CLAIMS AGREEMENT

REF.: A) PRAGUE 2302, B) PRAGUE 2293, C) STATE 202765

1. AS PER REFTEL C, DEPARTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 16 DELIVERED  
LETTER TO SENATOR LONG OUTLINING OUR ARGUMENTS AGAINST LONG/  
GRAVEL AMENDMENT.

2. FYI ONLY. LETTER MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) AMENDMENT  
WOULD NOT ACCOMPLISH PURPOSE INTENDED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE  
SINCE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT, IN FORSEEABLE  
FUTURE, BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW NEGOTIATIONS NOR  
IS THERE ANY APPRECIABLE CHANCE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS WOULD  
SETTLE IN FULL ON OUTSTANDING CLAIMS. (B) TERMS OF CLAIMS  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ARE HIGHLY SATISFACTORY; SETTLEMENT IS  
THE MOST FAVORABLE WE HAVE NEGOTIATED WITH ANY EASTERN  
EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN POSTWAR YEARS. (C) PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT  
COULD HAVE ADVERSE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
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AND THEREBY INJURE CAUSE OF THOSE SEEKING TO LIBERALIZE

CZECHOSLOVAK POLICIES. (D) U.S. CLAIMANTS AND BONDHOLDERS WOULD SUFFER IF FINAL SETTLEMENT POSTPONED. (E) DEPT AND BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS ARE OF VIEW THAT WE HAVE NO LEGAL RIGHT TO VEST AND SELL THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOLD TO PAY OFF CLAIMANTS. (F) BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT MADE RESTITUTION OF GOLD CONDITIONAL ON CONCLUSION

OF SATISFACTORY CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS. (CZECHS HAVE MADE PAYMENT OF BRITISH CLAIMS CONDITIONAL ON RESTITUTION OF GOLD).

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ARE INFORMING CLAIMANTS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS AND CONTACTING VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF PERSONNEL IN HOPES OF REVERSING FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ACTION EITHER ON SENATE FLOOR OR IN SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY OFFICIALS ALSO IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL SENATORS, INCLUDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

5. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT SOME CLAIMANTS, THEIR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES AND U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INTEND TO SEND STRONG CABLE TO COMMITTEE OPPOSING THE AMENDMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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